



## Happy Holidays!



**Top:** The Rock Island Arsenal Fire Department escorted Santa and his Elves to the child development center. Santa had gifts for all the children. (Photo by Allen Marshall)

**Bottom:** Carollers piped out Christmas tunes during the lighting of the Arsenal's Christmas tree. (Photo by Tim Cavanaugh)

## Happy holidays

# Remember our soldiers this holiday season

Season's Greetings and Happy Holidays! The recent sightings of bald eagles on the island as they move south on their annual migration is a definite sign that winter is now upon us. The barge traffic will soon stop for the season and the Mississippi will ice over as we all settle down for what we hope will be a mild winter on Arsenal Island.

Besides cold weather, the holiday season also brings with it the hope and expectations of what's to come in the new year. For Rock Island Arsenal, 2004 will be an even busier year than 2003. We will continue to support the deployed men and women with the combat and support systems they need to do their

job on a daily basis in addition to supporting their families back home so they can concentrate on the job they have to do.

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“**Nowhere though is there greater hope and expectation than in Iraq. The capture of Sadaam Hussein removes another terrorist from the world stage. The specter of his regime is gone and from the ashes of his dictatorship will rise a democracy that guarantees the freedoms and liberties that we all enjoy.**”

-- Col. Mike G. Mullins



**Col. Mike G. Mullins**  
Rock Island Arsenal Commander

regime is gone and from the ashes of his dictatorship will rise a democracy that guarantees the freedoms and liberties that we all enjoy. The war on terrorism is far from over, but through our perseverance and the continuing support from all of the Arsenal employees, we will prevail.

As you enjoy the holidays, please remember those men and women who can't be with their families and pray for their safe and quick return. Above all, let us all remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Charlotte joins me in wishing each of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

## The Rock

THE ROCK is an unofficial publication for members of the Rock Island Arsenal community. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Arsenal or the Department of the Army. The editorial content of THE ROCK is the responsibility of the Public Affairs Office, Rock Island Arsenal. Contributions to the ROCK are welcome: Postal address: Commander, Rock Island Arsenal, RIA-PA, Rock Island, IL 61299-5000. E-mail address: RIA-PA@ria.army.mil. Phone: 309-782-1121. The circulation of the ROCK is approximately 3,000. The ROCK is available on-line at the Rock Island website at [www.ria.army.mil](http://www.ria.army.mil).

## Rock Island Arsenal

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## Security at gates leads to arrests

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Many motorists, who drive up to the gates at Rock Island Arsenal, know what it's like to hear, "please pass through the gate and pull over ma'am (or sir)". While most people may think these security procedures are an inconvenience, the fact is many citations are issued and arrests are made due to routine traffic checks at the Rock Island Arsenal gates.

From Sept. 11, 2001, to present, more than 698 stops have resulted in mandatory court cases and/or citations, compared to the usual 50 or so per year prior to Sept. 11, 2001. The charges range from 226 parking tickets, to more than 473 individuals who had to appear in court to answer to their charges. Most citations are arrests for traffic-related issues, however, more than 23 drug busts from marijuana to cocaine have been netted at the Arsenal gates as well.

A vast majority of these incidents involved non-arsenal employees who were stopped while trying to gain access to the installation.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, there have been 12 cases involving the illegal possession of firearms, with one person having more than five weapons in their vehicle. In addition, 30 individuals were detained because they were wanted on warrants by Iowa or Illinois law enforcement agencies. According to information provided by the Island's traffic section,

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photo by Patricia Ryan

### New Monument

**On Nov. 2 the Seven Confederate Knight's Chapter 2625, United Daughters of the Confederacy, erected a new monument honoring the soldiers who died while confined in prison on Rock Island. From 1863-1865, the Rock Island Arsenal housed a prison for Confederate soldiers from the Civil War.**

## Holiday gate hours

### Davenport and Rock Island Gates

- Closed Dec. 24 at 6 p.m. and will reopen at 4:30 a.m. Dec. 29
- Closed Dec. 31 at 6 p.m. and will reopen at 4:30 a.m. Jan. 2, 2004
- Closed Jan. 2 at 6 p.m. and will reopen Jan. 5 at 4:30 a.m.

**Moline gate  
will operate 24/7**

## Industrial Center achieves lowest safety incident rate

The Rock Island Arsenal Safety Performance for Fiscal Year 2003 once again showed that RIA is capable of world-class safety performance.

This was especially evident in the industrial center where their incident rates were the lowest in their history.

The industrial center's lost time rate was .64 days and their severity rate, or lost day rate, was 3.7 days. Both of these number were 42 percent below the previous year's performance.

"This was a significant accomplishment," said Tim Bolyard, director of the industrial center. "This performance demonstrates that we have safety conscious leaders and work force and safe procedures and processes. While our biggest concern is the welfare of our most important resource -- the men and women who comprise our work force -- our successful safety program also keeps our costs down, making us more competitive."



# Local soldier speaks about Iraq experience

## Specialist survives helicopter crash, talks at AUSA Lunch, Learn event

by Allen Marshall  
Editor

A local soldier who survived a Chinook helicopter crash in Iraq was the guest speaker at an event held in the Arsenal's Caisson room Dec. 15.

Spc. Chad Baetke, a national guardsman with 106<sup>th</sup> Aviation in Davenport, survived the Nov. 2nd crash of a CH-47 helicopter in Iraq.

Although Baetke has been rehabilitating from his injuries, he was able to attend the Lunch and Learn event put on by the Fort Armstrong Chapter of the Association of the United States Army. Baetke spoke briefly about his experience in Iraq and fielded questions from many of the attendees.

Baetke said he doesn't remember much from the crash which occurred when the CH-47 Chinook helicopter was hit by Iraqi antiaircraft fire.



photo by Ted Cavanaugh

### Spc. Chad Baetke

The crash caused several injuries to Baetke. He said his rehabilitation is going well and he is focused on one goal.

"Right now, my goal is to stay in the Army," he said. "I want to heal well enough so that they don't medically retire me."

When the specialist, who is a mechanic on CH-47s, opened the floor to questions one of the first queries in-

volved the conditions soldiers face in Iraq.

"There is sand in everything," he said. "It wreaks havoc on everything and it can be avionics' worst nightmare."

"The tents we lived in had A/C (air conditioning) but not the type of A/C we are used to," Baetke said. "The A/C kept things tolerable."

Baetke was also asked which soldiers skills may need to be honed before a soldier deploys to Iraq. He said soldiers need to make sure they are up-to-date with their first-aid training and all soldiers will need to focus on attention to detail.

"Everyone has that little voice in the back of their head that says 'something is not right,'" Baetke explained. "(For those who deploy) Don't ignore that voice."

The needs of the soldiers was also a subject of conversation. Baetke said soldiers could probably use some hygiene products and some books to read. But, he said, the biggest thing the soldiers need is support.

"Fly the flag," he said. "Seeing the flag means so much more to me now."



U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Sean Kimmons

Spc. Chad Baetke survived a crash in a CH-47 Chinook helicopter like the one pictured above.

December 2003

## MEO maintains performance requirements

Installation Logistics provides various base operations supply services such as property book maintenance, Self-Service Supply Center, base operations supply requisitioning, hazardous material storage, and fuel distribution.

The functions underwent an A-76 study and it was announced in the fall of 2001 that the government won the A-76 with savings of several million dollars over five years.

Most Efficient Organization (MEO), the government A-76 entity, began operation in April 2002. MEO completed the first year of operation in April 2003.

The first year of operation has been audited and determined that the government has maintained the performance requirements necessary to continue as the MEO.

Congratulations to those employees who are part of this organization and were recognized with Commander's Coins:

- o Melanie Lewis
- o Cathy Bigelow
- o Holly Stotlar
- o Walter Ficklin
- o Curtis Cheatum
- o Nancy Spear
- o Judy Franklin
- o Carol Hickman
- o Ray Culbertson
- o Rich Henricks
- o Jeff Louck
- o Chuck Conger
- o Tom Laake
- o Anita Ruiz
- o Sue Heston

## CFC Award ceremony

### Local CFC raises most money ever

By Jonathan Del Marcus  
DA Public Affairs Intern  
Army Field Support Command

The 2003 Illowa Bi-state Combined Federal Campaign awards ceremony was held at Rock Island Arsenal Dec. 3.

The ceremony honored those individuals and organizations that helped the campaign raise approximately \$495,000 for local, national and international charities. The amount raised was the most ever in one year for the Illowa bi-state CFC.

Brig. Gen. James W. Rafferty, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Field Support Command, delivered keynote remarks and presented awards.

"It's really nice to be here to celebrate success. I've never failed to be amazed at the accomplishments of our people in our command and here on the island," Rafferty said.

"The committee members, the loaned executives, the chairpersons, the key persons, and everyone else involved did their best to spread the word and assure that our federal and postal employees had a chance to participate in this year's campaign. I am proud of what you've done in the 2003 campaign and honored to have the opportunity to personally thank you on behalf of Maj. Gen. McManus, congratulate you and make sure that you know that you've done valuable work," he said.

Also speaking were Tony Sconyers, Chief, Office of the Counsel, Army Field Support Command, and President, Quad Cities chapter of the Federal Executive Association; and Nancy Carlson, an employee of the Rock Island Arsenal Safety Office who served as a loaned executive during the 2003 Illowa bi-state CFC.

Carlson spoke about her brother Alan's battle with leukemia and how CFC contributions can have a direct affect on the health of a loved one.

Each year, the Illowa bi-state CFC allows federal employees in 12 coun-

ties in Iowa and Illinois to designate payroll deductions to about 3,000 local and 300 national charities of their choice, said Richard Jayne, 2003 Illowa Bi-state CFC chairman. During the 2003 campaign, 38 percent of employees donated to CFC charities.

The CFC is the only authorized solicitation of federal and postal employees in the workplace on behalf of charitable organizations. Typically, half the contributions made through CFC stay in the local area.

"People helping other people and giving back to the community - that's part of what federal employees do. We support the troops every day, and we support the local community too," Jayne said.

### CFC Awards

#### Susi Arnold Memorial Award for the Highest Percentage Participation:

Large organization\* - Headquarters, U.S. Army Field Support Command (AFSC) / U.S. Army Joint Munitions Command (JMC) (53% participation)

Small organization - Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS-Rock Island) (57% participation)

#### Highest Average Gift:

Large organization - HQ AFSC / JMC Headquarters (\$216)

Small organization - Northwest Region Office, U.S. Army Installation Management Agency (IMA) (\$237)

#### 2003 Leadership Award:

Gale Smith, Vice Chair 2003 Illowa Bi-State Campaign

#### 2003 Most Innovative Campaign Award:

U.S. Army North Central Civilian Personnel Operations Center (CPOC)

## Safety: tips provided for infury-free winter

*(The following article has been compiled with information provide by the Arsenal Safety Office)*

Along with the first snow of the season come hazards associated with walking on snowy and icy surfaces. The way you move, and even dress, can make the difference between getting where you're going and having an accident. Keep these tips in mind:

### **Walk – don't run.**

-- Always dress warm and give yourself a little extra time in the morning.

-- Walk slowly on slippery or uneven surfaces.

-- Wear shoes or boots with non-skid soles and flat heels.

-- Beware of loose pant cuffs; you could trip over them.

-- Avoid carrying a load you can't see over - especially on stairs.

-- Keep your hands at your sides, not in your pockets, for balance.

-- Use railings when climbing up or down stairs.

-- Step around obstructions and

avoid horseplay.

Pay attention to where you're going and what might be in your way. If you look where you're going, you're more likely to get there in one piece.

### **Winter Driving Tips**

-- Slow Down! Driving too fast for conditions is the number one cause of winter wrecks.

### **When it rains:**

-- Reduce speed and stay four seconds (not the usual two) behind the driver in front of you.

-- Use windshield wipers and headlights – not parking lights.

-- Use your defroster if the inside windows steam up.

-- Be aware that roads are most slippery in the light rain or when the rain first starts.

-- The mixture of rain with oil and dirt on the road can make it very slippery.

-- Slow down for large puddles, which can reduce braking ability.

-- Drive through slowly, tapping the brake if necessary.

-- Test your brakes once you're through, after making sure that no one's behind you.

-- Avoid hydroplaning (tires driving on the water, not the road).

-- If you start to lose control, take your foot off the gas. Do not brake suddenly.

-- Be aware of passing trucks; their spray could temporarily limit your ability to see the traffic around you – be alert, drive defensively.

### **Focus on Fog**

-- Slow down gradually, so that you don't hit the vehicle in front of you and so the vehicle behind you doesn't hit you.

-- Turn your headlights on low beam and use your windshield wipers and defroster.

-- Avoid passing, reduce speed but be aware not to go so slow that you become an obstacle.

-- Use the painted lines as a guide.

-- Consider getting off the road until the fog passes, better to be late than never.

## AAFES program facilitating gift giving for soldiers

**DALLAS** - While there are many well meaning Web sites, charity groups and individuals promoting donations to overseas Service members, unsolicited letters of support or care packages to Service Members raise a force protection issue.

Fortunately, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service's (AAFES) "Gifts from the Homefront" program is a safe alternative to the traditional care package.

These unique gift certificates allow anyone to make a direct impact on the Morale of deployed service members around the world by allowing a Soldier or Airman to visit an existing Base or Post Exchange to select

products of their choice.

AAFES Communication Director LTC Debra Pressley says that deployed Service Members interests vary widely. "Electronics such as digital cameras, boomboxes, DVDs, DVD players and camcorders are always popular."

"As we get closer to the holidays we expect to see a high priority placed on items that bring loved ones together such as phone cards."

Many of America's bravest will be far away from friends and family.

Fortunately, anyone can help bridge the gap with a "Gift from the Homefront." Those wishing to send a

"Gift from the Homefront" can simply log on to [aafes.com](http://aafes.com) to purchase gift certificates in \$10 or \$20 denominations.

From there, the "Gift From the Homefront" is sent to an individual service member (designated by the purchaser) or distributed to "any service member" through the American Red Cross, the Air Force Aid Society or Fisher House.

By leaving the purchasing decision to the service member, AAFES has been able to streamline the gift giving process and ensure that every Gift is tailored to the specific needs of the service member and their family.

Major General Kathryn Frost said, "Many Americans want to help the men and women in Iraq, but don't know how to get the items to the region."

"Gifts from the Homefront" solve this problem by minimizing the danger associated with unsolicited care packages because they can be used at all AAFES locations throughout Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom (OIF/OEF).

To date, AAFES operates some 48 stores throughout OIF/OEF (27 in Iraq), serving troops and lifting morale of those soldiering in austere, harsh conditions.



## Who is the warfighter? A letter from the field

**Editor's Note: The following email was sent to senior Army leaders from a Warfighter deployed to Iraq. The individual's name and references to specific units have been edited because the message was intended for the Chief of Staff and Sergeant Major of the Army, not for public dissemination. The Chief of Staff of The Army wants to share this message with the Army and the public because it exemplifies the spirit that makes all our Soldiers Warfighters.**

Sir,

I was prompted to write to you by something that our Division CSM (Command Sergeant Major) said at our Combat Patch Ceremony for the DISCOM (Division Support Command). We had the ceremony in coincidence with our division's birthday. He expressed his and the Division Commander's heartfelt pride and deep gratitude for all hard work and effort that DISCOM Soldiers have done to support and enable the Warfighter to perform his mission. This statement, though I am absolutely sure was sincere, gave me pause. I appreciate and applaud the Army's renewed focus and reassessment of priorities to more effectively serve our great Nation in time of War.

Each and every one of my Soldiers is more than simply a logistician, a computer systems analyst, or a mechanic. Each one of my Soldiers does more than simply provide support and resources to enable other Warfighters to perform their operational commitments. Each one of my Soldiers *is a Warfighter*. Every Soldier in Iraq serving to liberate and guarantee a future of freedom and prosperity for the Iraqi people shares the title and honor of Warfighter. Support personnel facing the danger of cowardly improvised explosive devices and small arms fire as they move all classes of supply on the battlefield, tired and cold Soldiers standing watch on observation point guard, cooks and mechanics huddled in shelters as mortars fall on forward operations bases all over Iraq all face a deadly and determined adversary; all are equally committed to acquit themselves with bravery and honor as they serve the Nation they love. The Warfighter is not a member of an exclusive club, attainable by the few, served by the many.

The Warfighter is all of us, each committed to our mutual success, each ready and eager to fulfill the role which those charged with the sacred responsibility of leadership ask us to perform. I would ask of you to remember that the asymmetric battlefield expands the scope and role of Combat Service Support personnel who now find themselves performing double duty as a Warfighter and trained specialist supporting operational commitments. I would ask that you remind us all that we are riflemen and Soldiers first and foremost. I would ask that you encourage and challenge the Army to recognize that each of us are "the Warfighter."

Very respectfully yours,  
A Warfighter  
Iraq

## Gate Security *continued from Page 3*

the Government Bridge between Davenport and Rock Island is a known quick getaway route for gangs and drug trafficking. The Arsenal citations and arrests assist all the Quad Cities law enforcement agencies by providing a checkpoint that is not often expected, resulting in capturing many criminals who might otherwise not get caught.

In addition to thousands of dollars in fines that have resulted due to the crackdown on security, some dangerous criminals are being caught because of the gate stops. Tom Meyer,

Director of Force Protection at the Arsenal said: "One of the 23 possession of illegal drug charges we have had was a family of three that came back through the Arsenal twice, and were arrested both times. One individual of that family was eventually convicted for his connection to a drive-by shooting in Davenport which claimed the life of a nine-year-old girl". That person is now serving 25 years in prison.

More than 20 driving under the influence cases resulting from gate stops have made the streets safer in

Quad Cities. The cost to those arrested for DUI could include up to a \$2,500 fine and up to one year in prison plus treatment, court costs and supervision, and the cost for increased insurance premiums. DUI results in tragic deaths every year and Arsenal gate stops are helping reduce those numbers.

Next time you are asked to pull over, instead of fretting over being a few minutes late for work, think of the security you are afforded and the benefits to the community served by those officers serving you.

**Demolition of the 2nd Avenue ramp off of 17th Street in Moline:** started on Monday, Dec. 15. You will not be able to access the arsenal via 17th Street in Moline. Access will be available via the 14th Street ramp, north of 5th Avenue.

**Government Bridge winter construction schedule:** In order to perform necessary construction on the Government Bridge, the following lane closures and bridge closures are required. Every effort will be made to keep traffic interruptions as brief as possible. Tuesday, Dec. 16: There will be intermittent one lane closures between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, Dec. 17 through 19: there will be a total bridge closure between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 20 and 21: there will be another total bridge closure between 7 a.m. Saturday through 2 p.m. Sunday.

**Holiday Video Teleconference Calls (VTCs)** are FREE to military and civilian personnel working on this installation. Holiday VTCs may be scheduled Dec.15-Jan.2, by calling Ms. Kathy Paterson, ext. 2-7398, or Ms. Sheila Castens, ext. 2-6650; or Louise Link at 2-1563.

**The Arsenal Attic Thrift Shop:** Located in the basement of Bldg. 60, is open Tuesday and Thursday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. and the first Wednesday of each month, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. (September- May). All RIA community members are eligible to shop and consign items. Volunteers and donated items are always welcome.

**Commissary Restrictions Lifted:** Guard and Reserve members now have UNLIMITED COMMISSARY SHOPPING PRIVILEGES. If you are in the Guard or Reserve, you no longer have to present a Commissary Privilege Card when you shop and you can shop as many days as you want.

**UPCOMING CLASSES:** Most Classes are free to RIA military, civilians, contractors, and their family members.

- How to be a Quitter! Ready to quit smoking or chewing tobacco? RIA offers Smoking Cessation classes, an ongoing program every Tuesday from 3 - 4 p.m. at the EAP. To enroll, call 782-4357.
- American Red Cross Baby-sitter Training, Jan. 2, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ages 11 to 15 American Red Cross -1100 River Dr. Moline. Cost is \$15 - call 782-0791 for more information.

#### **HOLIDAY CLOSURES:**

**Auto Shop:** Closed Dec 24, 25, 26 & 31, and Jan. 1 and 3.

**Fitness Center:** Dec. 24 -Closing at 3 p.m. Closed Dec. 25 & 26, and Jan. 1 and 3. Dec. 31 - Closing at 3 p.m.

**Outdoor Recreation:** Closed Dec. 25-26 and Jan. 1-2.

**Rock Island Arsenal Museum:** Closed Dec. 24-26, and Jan. 1.

**Child and Youth Services,** including the Child Dev. Centers, School Age and Youth Services, and the Central Registration Office located in bldg. 110: Closed Dec. 25-26 and Jan. 1. The Child Development Centers, Bldgs. 11 and 16, will also be closed Jan 16.

**EAP Office:** Closed Dec. 25-26.

**ACS Office:** Closed Dec. 25-26.

**The Retail Store in Bldg. 60** will be closed: Dec. 20-Jan. 4. Newspapers will be available at the cash registers in Bldgs. 350 and 60 cafeterias.

**350 Cafeteria:** Dec. 22 through Jan. 5: - Grill Items only (No Entree') - Breakfast will be served. Food Court - Hot Stuff, Smash Hits and Mean Genes ONLY (No Entree') - Breakfast will be served